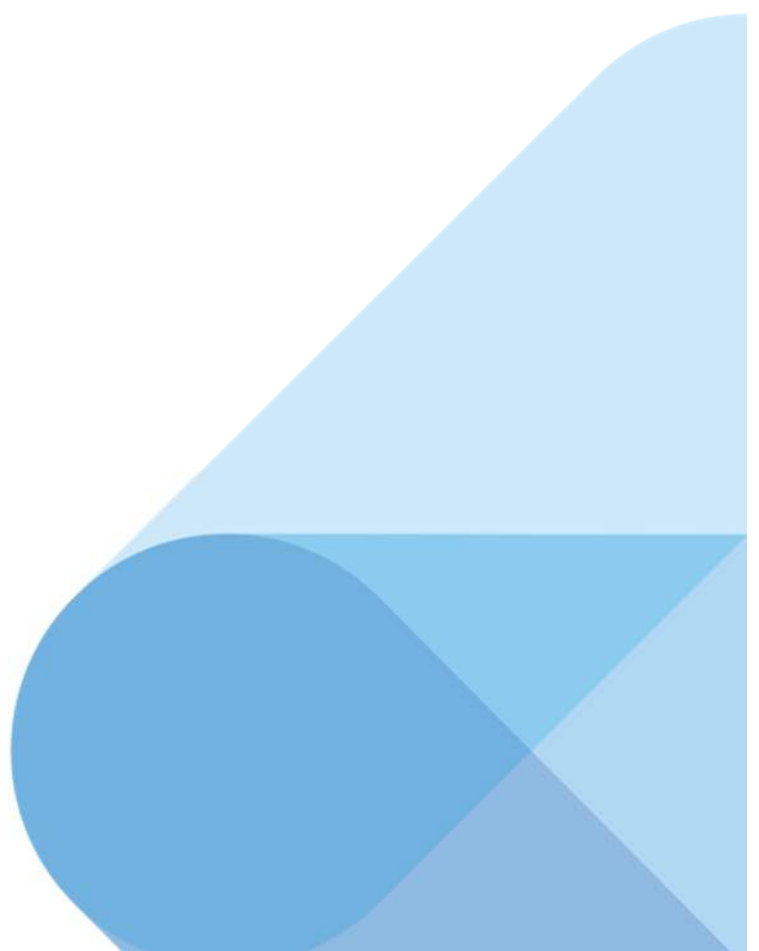




Community Engagement Feedback Report

Future Planning for Goolwa Main Street Trees

23 April – 22 May 2026



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1.0 Background

The Cadell Street avenue of trees is an iconic feature within Goolwa. As well as providing much-needed shade and amenity to the locality, they are part of the broader urban forest within the Goolwa area and the wider tree canopy across the district.

As detailed in the Annual Community Plan 2025/26 (the ACP), consultation was required to be undertaken to help inform the future planning for the Goolwa main street trees in Cadell Street.

Council has received consistent feedback from local businesses and internal teams that the trees along Cadell Street (Gardiner Street to Goolwa Terrace) are causing a continuing nuisance to both property and infrastructure.

This nuisance comes in the form of:

- Tree debris on buildings and on the ground, which can include leaves, flowers, fruit and branches. This amount of debris can be exacerbated by other factors such as corellas and adverse weather conditions.
- Below-ground root systems disturbing kerbs, footpaths and roads.
- Above-ground impacts, such as mobility and accessibility issues related to tripping hazards from the tree roots disturbing footpath paving and conflict between high-sided vehicles and branches.

The reports of nuisance need to be balanced alongside other feedback from the community, who value the aesthetics and environmental benefits of the trees and wish to protect and preserve them.

Protecting and enhancing tree canopy in our townships also aligns with Council's environmental values and strategic vision.

In response to this feedback, and to provide Council and the community with a clear direction, community consultation was undertaken from 23 April 2026 to 22 May 2026.

The consultation was limited to six options as follows:

1) Option 1 – Keep trees and current level of maintenance

The existing trees remain and are maintained to current service levels and standards. This includes the levels of service around the maintenance of assets such as footpaths, kerbs and roads that are impacted by the trees.

2) Option 2 – Keep trees with higher level of maintenance

The existing trees remain but the levels of service connected to the maintenance of the trees and assets such as footpaths, kerbs and roads, are increased. This may include but not limited to more frequent road and footpath sweeping, asset repairs and tree maintenance. Understanding that any change to the levels of service will likely require additional operational funding and resourcing.

3) Option 3 – Progressive tree replacement (over 20 years)

This succession planning approach would mean the proactive and gradual replacement of trees (maybe a couple of trees per year) over 20 years, with a different species suited to the locality. This option would balance and retain the feel

of the street with an avenue of trees, as well as allowing for new trees to mature and provide shade and amenity.

4) Option 4 – Staged tree replacement (over 5 years)

This planned approach would mean the staged replacement of trees over 5 years, to see a more rapid replacement of the trees with species suited for the locality and retaining the feel of the street with an avenue of trees. This approach would have greater benefit in terms of reducing the impacts, however visually a lot more of the trees would be juvenile and young. This means it would take a while for shading and amenity to return.

5) Option 5 – Total removal and replacement (2 years)

This approach would mean complete removal and replacement of all the trees within Cadell Street in a 2-year program. The replacement trees would be species suited for the locality and would look to retain an avenue of trees. This approach would have greatest benefit in terms of reducing the impacts, however visually this would dramatically change the amenity of the street for the short to medium term. This means it would take a while for shading and amenity to return.

6) Option 6 – Total removal and no replacement (1 year)

This approach would mean complete removal of all the trees within Cadell Street in 1 year program. No replacement of trees would occur, which is opposed to Council's strategic and policy position. This approach would have greatest benefit in terms of reducing the impacts, however visually this would dramatically change the amenity of the street for the long term. This means things like shading and amenity would be gone, meaning the street scape would become hotter.

2.0 Engagement Snapshot

During the consultation period from 23 April – 22 May **a total of 502 responses** were received across both the My Say platform and via email/hard copy.



Who we heard from (My Say and Hard Copy)

344 x Ratepayer and ongoing resident

33 x Ratepayer and seasonal/holiday resident

48 x Resident (i.e. resident tenant)

19 x Ratepayer and business owner

17 x Interested stakeholder

19 x Other

What we heard

Option 1 - Keep trees
with Current Level of
Service

214 Yes

188 No
92 Neutral

Option 2 - Keep the
trees with Higher
Level of Maintenance

314 Yes

104 No
77 Neutral

Option 3 -
Progressively Replace
Trees (over 20 years)

119 Yes

284 No
91 Neutral

Option 4 - Stage
replacement of the
Trees (over 5 years)

71 Yes

371 No
52 Neutral

Option 5 - Totally remove
all the trees and replace
them immediately
(over 2 years)

35 Yes

429 No
30 Neutral

Option 6 - Totally
remove all the trees
with no replacement

10 Yes

478 No
6 Neutral

2.1 Engagement communications

Audience	Channel	Results
Residents/ Ratepayers	Council website - Latest news article on home page	Throughout consultation
	My Say page	Page visits: 1,842 Document downloads: 68
	My Say e-newsletter subscribers	23 April - Sent to 2,309 subscribers (45.9% open rate)
	Social media (Instagram and Facebook) – at the start and midway through consultation	Facebook - Views: 11,136 - Link clicks: 119 - Interactions: 65 Instagram - Views: 1,350 - Reach: 803 - Interactions: 22
	Council office displays - entryways	Throughout consultation
	Community noticeboards	N/A
	Corflutes (waterproof signage on site)	10 corflute signs displayed near street trees along Cadell Street 
Government and key agencies	Direct email	State Heritage – Senior Heritage Architect, Mr Kevin O’Sullivan – 4 June 2026
Section 41 Committees / Advisory Committees/ Audit and Risk Committee	Meeting	- Climate Emergency and Environment Advisory Committee – 6 July 2026 - Heritage Advisory Group – 16 July 2026

Media	Fleurieu Sun and The Southern Argus Media Release (23 April 2026)	 ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL Community Consultations Council seeks community feedback on the following three (3) consultations. Please direct all written submissions via mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au, email alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au or by post to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 21, Goolwa SA 5214. For further information, contact Council on 8555 7000. Draft Community Engagement Policy Council seeks feedback on the Draft Community Engagement Policy. The Policy has been developed to be in line with the State Government's Community Engagement Charter and the Local Government Act 1999. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 15 May 2026. Future Planning for Goolwa Main Street Trees Council seeks feedback on the six (6) proposed options to plan for the Cadell Street avenue of trees. This follows consistent community feedback that the trees along Cadell Street (from Gardiner Street to Goolwa Terrace) are causing nuisance to both property and infrastructure. Community feedback will help to define the next steps for management of these trees. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 22 May 2026. Draft Recreation Open space and Sport Strategy 2026-2036 (ROSS) Council seeks feedback on its first ROSS 2026-2036. The draft Strategy aims to guide the future development of recreation, open space and sport facilities across the Council district. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 5 June 2026.
Internal staff	Connect Intranet Announcement	Throughout consultation period
Council Members	Briefing to Council Members via Council Report, CM Portal, email, Council Information Session	• Council Report (20 April 2026) • Council Report with engagement outcomes (17 August 2026)

3.0 Consultation Response Overview

3.1 Evaluation

The community engagement process attracted a high level of participation, with 502 responses received during the consultation period, including the accepted late responses. This demonstrates a strong level of community interest in the future management of the Goolwa main street trees, located along Cadell Street.

Overall, the consultation identified clear support for retaining the existing avenue of trees, rather than replacing or removing them. The strongest level of support was for **Option 2 – Keep the trees with a higher level of maintenance**, with many respondents indicating that increased maintenance was a preferable solution to address the issues associated with leaf litter, tree debris, infrastructure impacts and pruning requirements.

While the consultation acknowledged concerns relating to maintenance, infrastructure damage, accessibility and the impacts of Little Corellas, respondents consistently recognised the environmental, heritage and community value of the existing trees.

Common themes included preserving the iconic character of Cadell Street, maintaining shade and cooling benefits, supporting wildlife habitat and protecting the unique identity of Goolwa's main street.

There was limited community support for options involving staged or complete replacement of the trees, with the least support received for total removal without replacement.

Many respondents also suggested that complementary management measures, included increased maintenance, increased pruning practices and continued Little Corella management, should be explored before considering replacement of the existing trees.

The consultation has provided Council with a comprehensive understanding of community values and priorities. The feedback indicates that the community generally supports maintaining the existing tree canopy while investing in enhanced maintenance and ongoing management to minimise impacts on surrounding infrastructure and businesses.

Feedback summary:

- Keep our trees
- Higher maintenance without removal
- Trees are the heart of any local community
- Without the trees we have a lifeless concrete jungle
- Mature trees cannot be replaced
- It would be a travesty for council to remove them
- Multiple benefits including wildlife habitat, cooling, heritage and character they provide for Goolwa
- Eradication of Corellas is needed
- Essential for shade and wildlife
- Heavier pruning might reduce many of the issues
- The trees are beautiful and should be kept
- No need to replace trees, extra maintenance can fix these issues
- Leave them alone, there are other ways to deal with 'complaints' from business owners
- Current streetscape is so welcoming and providing shade along Cadell Street
- Cull the Corellas every year
- Trees to not ever be removed, they give us shade, keep streets cooler in hot weather and are much loved.
- Not Crepe Myrtles
- Select trees that will not be impacted by Corella invasions.
- Before Council claims they have selected the most appropriate replacement species, visit a similar location with the same species to determine the appropriateness of the selected species.

Key Themes Identified

Theme	Summary of Feedback	Evaluation
Community Value	Respondents consistently expressed that the trees are an iconic feature of Goolwa and contribute to the towns identity, heritage and character. Many described the trees as welcoming, attractive and an important	The feedback demonstrates that the existing tree avenue is highly valued by the community for its visual amenity, heritage significance and contribution to Goolwa's identity. Any future management of the trees should seek to preserve these community

	part of the main street experience for residents and visitors. There is a strong desire to retain the mature trees wherever possible.	values while balancing operational and infrastructure requirements.
Environmental Benefits	Many respondents highlighted the environmental benefits provided by the trees, including shade, cooling during hot weather, improved streetscape amenity, carbon storage and habitat for birds and wildlife. Respondents frequently noted the importance of mature trees in mitigating the impacts of climate change and that these benefits cannot be quickly replaced by newly planted trees.	The consultation confirms strong community recognition of the environmental services provided by the existing mature trees. These benefits align with Council's strategic objectives relating to urban tree canopy, climate resilience and biodiversity and should be considered alongside infrastructure and maintenance impacts.
Corella Management	A significant number of respondents considered Little Corellas to be a major contributor to the current nuisance issues through debris, noise and damage to the trees. Many suggested that improved or ongoing Corella management should be prioritised rather than replacing the trees themselves.	The feedback indicates that many community members view Little Corella activity as a contributing factor to the perceived impacts associated with the trees rather than the trees themselves. While Corella management is a separate issue, continued investigation and implementation of appropriate management measures may assist in reducing some of the concerns raised during consultation.
Maintenance	Respondents generally supported increasing maintenance activities rather than replacing the trees. Suggested actions included more frequent street sweeping, pruning, footpath and kerb repairs, root management and ongoing maintenance of surrounding infrastructure. Many acknowledged that additional maintenance may require increased Council resources and funding.	The consultation demonstrates strong support for enhanced maintenance as the preferred approach to managing the existing trees. While an increased level of service would have financial and operational implications for Council, the feedback indicates that the community generally considers this a preferable alternative to large-scale tree replacement or removal.

4.0 Self-nomination to participate

It is important to acknowledge that involvement in the public consultation process is voluntary, with participants self-nominating to contribute. As a result, the feedback gathered should not be regarded as statistically representative of all perspectives.

5.0 Consultation images

N/A